



Arizona Central West Zone Incident Management Team

February Fire NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Wednesday, February 15, 2006 7:00 a.m.

Contact number – (928) 468-9911
(602) 228-8399
(602) 525-4631

Acres: 4,243 acres
Cause: Human, under investigation
Containment: 95 percent
Terrain: Rough, broken, steep terrain
Crews: 6 crews
Available air support: Three helicopters

Start date: Monday, February 6, 2005
Location: 12 miles north of Payson, AZ
Fuels: Chaparral, pine and juniper
Total personnel: 386
Equipment: 12 engines, 3 dozers, 10 water tenders

Tonto National Forest personnel are expected to resume supervision of the February Fire today. The Arizona Central West Zone Incident Management Team projects total containment of the fire by 6:00 p.m. Forest personnel will oversee any remaining mop-up and land rehabilitation operations.

About one-fourth of the firefighters were demobilized on Tuesday. Some of them made it back to their home units in time to spend Valentine's night with loved ones but they didn't leave empty handed. Each of them received signed valentines from Payson area Girl Scout Troops 923 and 1604 during the morning briefing.

Fire officials are pleased with suppression efforts. Incident Commander John Philbin attributes much of the operational success to work that had already been done by the Payson Ranger District. "The local district had a strict regime of fuel thinning and prescribed burn projects that really made our job a lot easier," said Philbin. He also expressed his gratitude for the overwhelming hospitality offered by the citizens of Payson, elected officials, the Chamber of Commerce and area businesses.

The Control Road (FR 64) between the Geronimo Estates Road (FR 458) and the Washington Park Road (FR 32) is now open. Please exercise caution along this and other roads in the vicinity of the fire as firefighters continue to work in the area.

For additional information, updates and maps see www.fs.fed.us/r3/cwz/index.htm.